



THE JOYRIDERS
THERAPEUTIC RIDING ASSOCIATION
Prince Edward Island, Canada



“THE WHINNY”
Issue #36 ~ SPRING 2026

OUR MISSION

The enhancement of the physical, emotional and social well-being of children and adults with disabilities through various forms of therapeutic riding.



Photo: Matthew McNally

NORAH McNALLY
2025 JOYRIDER OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS, NORAH!



EDITOR'S EYE VIEW

Daphne Davey

Did you know, the Joyriders go year round? We can't offer riding lessons in the chilly winter months, but the Program Team was busy with rider progress report meetings, practice teaching clinics and mentoring sessions for our two instructor candidates, and preparations for the spring Riding and summer Horsemanship programs.

In the meantime, our board was active with fundraising and PR opportunities to keep everything afloat. We have been so fortunate to receive generous grants and donations in recent months (acknowledged in these pages).

Now it's time to head for the beach! Have a great summer, everyone.

RETROSPECTIVE

Although unsuccessful with our presentation at the 100 Women Who Care (Prince County) competition in December, Karen, Daphne, and Linda (*left to right*) from the Joyriders board celebrated the great PR opportunity the event presented us with. Where better to go than Holman's in Summerside – for ice cream. In DECEMBER? You're kidding, right? Nope!



TWO GREAT SUPPORTERS

Five stars and our sincere thanks go to

* Easter Seals of PEI

for their \$5,000 grant in support of our programs, including updating and reprinting our Volunteer Training Manual.

* ParaSport and Recreation PEI

for supporting our two-year training program for our candidate instructors with two annual grants totalling \$3,000.



AND TWO GREAT CANDIDATES

We are fortunate to have two candidates, **Molly McHugh** and **Sarah Sonier**, in training for Basic Instructor certification under the mentorship of chief instructor Kathy Barrett, assisted by instructor Lauren MacIsaac. Can'TRA examiner Paula Bernard from New Brunswick will conduct a "mock" exam this summer – a practice run for the real thing, which is scheduled for the end of August. We're rooting for you!



Sarah takes Patricia through warm-up exercises on Winston, with Lauren taking the back view, and Bobbi-Jo side-walking. Note the fan (to keep Winston cool) on a very hot day!



Molly practices giving instructions to Norah, riding Pixie, through the cone exercise. Pat side-walks, and Florine gives slack so Norah can be in charge of steering.



**PARKDALE-SHERWOOD
LIONS CELEBRATE
SIXTY-FIVE YEARS**

Imagine! Sixty-five years of service to the community, and that has included many donations to the Joyriders.

Board members Butch and Daphne were honoured to be invited to attend the club's 65th celebration in Charlottetown – at which, to our great surprise, we were presented with a cheque for \$6,500. We are so grateful for this club's generosity.



**ANDY ROBB
MEMORIAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

“Andy was ‘one of a kind’ in so many ways. Everyone who knew him had many reasons to be proud to call him friend. Those who knew him through his many volunteer endeavours admired and were inspired to emulate him. The Island has much for which to be grateful to this peerless and warm gentleman.” *Donor to Andy Robb Fund.*

This special Fund in Andy’s memory (a project he initiated) was set up to commemorate the huge contribution he made to the Joyriders as a board member for over 20 years.

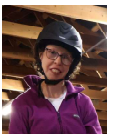
If you would like to provide sustaining support to the Joyriders to ensure its financial stability, please visit our website and Facebook:

www.thejoyriders.ca

<https://www.facebook.com/thejoyriderspei>



**SENDING BEST WISHES
TO EMILY**



We have missed you this spring, Emily! We wish you a speedy recovery, and look forward to seeing you back in the saddle in the fall.

MONKEYING AROUND FOR ATTENTION!



INTRODUCING ROBIN



Marc gets to ride Robin, with volunteers Carly and Janet in his team.

Robin is a sweet 19-year-old black Quarter Horse mare, who has been a school horse for 10 years and knows the ropes! We are grateful to Chelsea Barrett Brown for loaning her for the spring program.

SPRING SNAPSHOTS

A fun way to strengthen the core, using stretchy toys in bright colours (pick your favourite). That's what comes from sending our instructors to the CanTRA national conference last year!



Doug leads the stretching exercise with Spencer on Robin and Rowan on Pixie.



NEWS FROM NATIONAL

CanTRA has recently developed a new operational model – “hubs” – and the system is working well. To avoid having “all the eggs in one basket” (one staff person in the former head office in Guelph), there are now three hubs and their administrators sharing the workload:

Certification Hub (Eliane Trempe, QC): Instructor training, education, and certification.

Accreditation Hub (Suzy Bender, ON): Accreditation of therapeutic riding centres.

Finance Hub (Kendra Flynn-Stronach, QC): Insurance and financial business.

Regardless of the province in which they reside, everyone can work as a team. Welcome to the electronic age!



CANDID CAMERA



Kick-boxing, anyone? What's your bet, Logan or Winston to make the first move?





VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

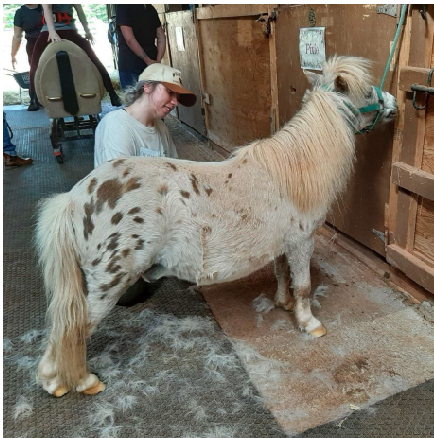
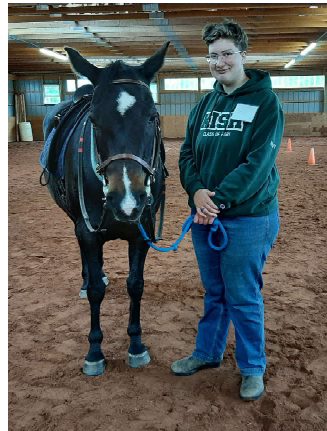


In the spirit of National Volunteer Week (April 2026), we caught some of our volunteers in the spotlight.

Top L: Kellie-Lynn and Patti with Robin. Top R: Jessica with Logan and Bobbi-Jo with Pixie.

Centre L: Florine and Pat with Pixie. Centre R: Sam with Robin.

Bottom L: Cheyenne with Bobby. Bottom R: Sophie with Logan.



TOO HOT TO TROT?

Fire drills are a must! We practice the drill with all our riders in each riding session. As soon as riders and horses and bystanders are evacuated to the outside ring, Gilles checks his list to make sure no one got left behind.



HUNTER RIVER LIONS SPRING A SURPRISE

In February, we attended a Hunter River Lions meeting. We were not expecting what happened next! The Lions presented us with a Chase the Ace cheque for \$4,000, partnering with Cymbria, North Rustico, and Winsloe Lions Clubs, and other organizations. Thank you so much for your continuing generous support!



Daphne and Peter, fourth and third from right, accept the cheque.

MORE SPRING SNAPSHOTS ...

BEN ON LOGAN



JUSTIN ON PIXIE



LIAM ON PIXIE

CHARLEY ON LOGAN



NORAH ON PIXIE



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Patricia Bradley and Norah McNally for acting as “practice riders” for our instructor candidates, Molly and Sarah. They got to enjoy one-on-one lessons, too!

2026 AGM

Celebrating the service of retiring directors and welcoming new faces.

At our AGM on May 27 in Hunter River, we said goodbye and a sincere thanks to three retiring directors: **Stephanie Compton, Catherine MacInnis, and Olive Moase**. At the same time, we welcomed three new directors: **Lila MacIsaac Buchanan, Kersti Kass, and Tony Nierop**. Welcome aboard!



President Daphne Davey presents Catherine MacInnis with a glass award as a token of the board's appreciation for her service.

LILA MacISAAC BUCHANAN

Lila has been part of the non-profit world for 30 years, including working with the Canadian Mental Health Association and East Prince Youth Development Centre. She is currently active with PEI Ground Search and Rescue, among other volunteer commitments.

KERSTI KASS

Horses were a big part of Kersti's childhood growing up on PEI. And guess what? She was a volunteer with the Joyriders in the 1990s! Kersti practiced law for some years, and served on the board of Camp Gencheff. In 2020, she made a career change and now runs a popular food truck. How's that for a switch?

TONY NIEROP



Tony and his wife, Annette, are members of Kensington Lions Club (*see page 9*). Prior to retiring to PEI in 2017, Tony worked for many years in sales, his "niche in life." Tony served as King Lion for Belfast Lions Club before joining Kensington Lions. He is currently serving on a committee of the Summerside TRI-Lobster Triathlon.

EVEN MORE SPRING SNAPSHOTS ...

MARC ON LOGAN



PATRICIA ON LOGAN



ROWAN ON PIXIE



PARTY PIX

The 2025 Christmas Party turned out a bumper crop of party-goers!

YUM ...



... YUM!

Right: Gilles presents a farewell gift to retiring instructor Debbie Gormley.



Below: Marg presents a farewell gift to retiring physio Trish Helm-Neima.



Right: Joan presents a volunteer certificate to Sarah Sonier (a.k.a. Elf).



GREAT PR OPPORTUNITIES

2025 Accessibility and Inclusion Expo, hosted by the City of Charlottetown. Daphne and Cathleen on shift.



2026 Accessibility and Inclusion Expo, hosted by ResourceAbilities in Summerside. Tony and Daphne on shift.



DID YOU KNOW?

The **2026 Easter Seals Ambassador** was none other than our own **Rowan MacDonald**. Congratulations, Rowan, on a successful schools tour and fundraising!

Since 1980, when the first Ambassador ("Timmy") was chosen – Joyrider Michael Morrison – no less than 13 Ambassadors have been Joyriders.

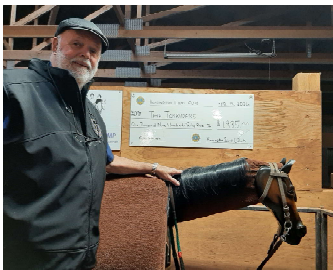


KENSINGTON LIONS COME UP TRUMPS

Thanks to the initiative of Annette and Tony Nierop, we have found new supporters in Kensington Lions Club. They recently presented us with a cheque for \$1,935!



Annette and Tony with Linda, Karen, Olive, and Daphne.



Tony and the Big Cheque on the mounting ramp in the arena.

GRIDLOCK IN THE VIEWING ROOM



*At back: Jean and Ben, Sharon, Lisa, Lisa and Rowan
In front: Spencer, Justin and Becky.*

YET MORE SPRING SNAPSHOTS ...

PAXTON ON PIXIE AND WHINNY



SPENCER ON ROBIN



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2026–2027**

<i>President</i>	Daphne Davey
<i>Past president</i>	[vacant]
<i>Vice-president</i>	Linda Stewart
<i>Secretary</i>	[vacant]
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cathleen O’Grady
<i>Directors</i>	Terri Anderson Lila MacIsaac Buchanan Kersti Kass Heather MacLeod Heather MacNeil Peter McDougall Butch McGee Tony Nierop Karen Thompson
<i>Director ex officio</i>	Kathryn Barrett <i>Chief Instructor</i>



PROGRAM TEAM

Chief instructor
Kathryn Barrett, CanTRA Coach

Instructors
Lauren MacIsaac, CTRBI-2
Gilles Richard, CTRBI-2
Daphne Davey, CTRBI
Doug Ellis, CTRBI
Marg Gray, CTRBI

Consultant physiotherapist
Annie Macartney

Applications Coordinator
Ellen McCloskey
ellen.jmccloskey@gmail.com

Rider Coordinator
Julie Scales
jbscales30@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator
Joan Leslie
joanleslietater@gmail.com

DONATION OPTIONS

Online at www.thejoyriders.ca
E-transfer to joyridersinfo2020@gmail.com
Cheque to our mailing address c/o Treasurer

“THE WHINNY”

Semi-annual newsletter of
THE JOYRIDERS

Therapeutic Riding Association of PEI
PO Box 20149, Charlottetown,
Prince Edward Island, Canada, C1A 9E3

Editor: Daphne Davey
joyridersinfo2020@gmail.com

SUBMISSIONS are welcome! Why not write about your experience as a Joyrider or volunteer? Or send a photo or drawing?

Photos are by Daphne Davey unless otherwise credited.

VISIT THESE SITES

www.thejoyriders.ca

www.facebook.com/thejoyriderspei

www.cantra.ca

parasportpei.ca